



Today I sorted through the remaining 63rd mailing zines to make up a bundle that I could look through and comment on, and woe, there is no Scythrop 24 or is left.

I'm sorry about that, JB and Tom, but what happened was simply that I have sent out the extra copies, inadvertently including my own bundle, to prospective members who have made enquiries since the last mailing.

This, by the way, explains why OMPA requires the extra copies, or at least it explains one use of them. Of course one of the other uses is that if a members bundle goes astray, as it has happened in the past, I can send him a new bundle. Also, we can sell the back numbers.

This last method of disposal has been neglected by me in the past, I don't know if we could sell any. Members might mention that we sell back numbers at twice the postage; and I'll try to get out a list of what we have for sale some time soon.

BALMOUTH Lynn Hickman. Its a pity that one can pick up a copy of a zine and notice that it is reproduced well.

That is to say that I wish I, and some other members, could produce a fanzine as impeccable as this. Unfortunately, shudderingly recalling my struggles with the school duplicator, I know that this is not as easy to do as it might sound. Perhaps one might; if afflicted with a poor machine and with no way of getting a better one; try in some other way to improve the zine. Say by making a real effort to get something interesting in it, or at least trying to get greater quantity, or, an alternative I've tried, put a bit of colour on the cover. I put colour on my covers, when I have time, partly because I like colouring them and partly because I hope to make a poor cover look a bit better.

I wish we had more US members, ((I wish we had more members)).

Lisa Tuttle....sex education. I've a few thoughts swimming around in my head about this, one of them being, Who is going to teach it? If you say "the schools" then why? and also, what is sex education? Is it the mechanics, the ..er..morals, or health, or social....you see there are going to be few children who do not know the mechanics by the time they are, say, ten. I believe this not only by personal experience, hearing other adults reminiscences, but also from coming into contact with many children. Add to this the fact that while at college I did a study of childrens lore, in the course of which, not quite incidentally because children have "lore" and "traditions" about such things, I found that sex knowledge was almost universal among the children of the junior age range. What might be far more useful would be the health and moral side of sex education. To get a healthy attitude to sex depends to a large degree on developing an attitude of responsibility for ones actions. I've no doubt that schools can help in this, but it is mostly at home and amongst their fellows that these sort of attitudes are formed. Good or bad attitudes. Any change that the school can make depends on these, and in turn of the world a large. That is, advertising, stories, films, TV. But especially on the peer groups of the children. Also, who is going to teach "sex"? I've heard of, for instance, young women teachers being asked to take such lessons. Quite frankly it might be OK with young children, but from the teen children I've met I pity any such teacher trying to do serious work on that..gigglesome, dirty, subject. Anyhow, those are just stray thoughts maybe someone can say something more useful.

BADMOUTH Continued...the only mandatory subject taught in English schools (I'm right am I Terry?) is religion. I think it perpetrating superstition and shows we are still very near the caves. I don't like teaching the Christian religion. Yet I do teach something which passes for religious instruction? Why? Well read on and dig about in my words. Don't go taking remarks out of the context of my overall remarks though. Firstly I think that a large number of people need religion for reassurance. Then again, a lot need the prop of religion to help them behave as responsible people, and thirdly some need the fear of God to dissuade them from their anti-social inclinations. I oppose people who turn from God and then act as though that releases them from any obligation to their fellows. I also think religious fanaticism, or deep belief, can be dangerous, breeding hatred, etc., Until some philosophy of society arises that fulfills these functions, then religion is needed. I teach religion, with "religion" meant, in an effort to socialise children. For example be kind to people deaf, dumb, lame, stupid, poor, old, etc., compassion. or, "would you like someone to do/say that to you?, consideration for others, "I know a man who goes round at night trying shop doors?"... a...policeman!, don't jump to conclusions; anti-prejudice. etc., in other words I try to teach children to behave as responsible people... but of course, again, their homes, their friends, the world at large, all have great influence on them. For instance, consider the constant pilfering which goes on, in all sorts of factory or office; consider the "boss" who can make deals with overseas commercial partners to get over-the-rate currency when holidaying abroad...it goes on and on. Well, what is a child to think when he's told one thing, but sees everyone doing the opposite?. How can he believe that honesty is the best policy..and consider the carry-over of this into all aspects of his life. Complete honesty, ~~perhaps~~ is impossible, and very probably so is integrity.

YSELF C Handfield....hope to see you in the Jan mailing...

THE RECKONING K Walker. if Pandom is short on Horror fanzines then thats OK by me. If you mean by fantasy, de Camp, Tolkein, Vance, even Moorcock, OK, but horror, no ta. Maybe I've jumped to the wrong conclusions, horror in fantasy is OK, but the word "horror" gives me the horrors. I think about ghouls, corpses, witchy things etc., just strewn about with ..er..gay abandon just for the sake of giving one the creeps. Anyhow, maybe you could tell me what you think of as horror, we may indeed be on the same wavelength...but putting the word "horror" into the BWFS vocabulary makes me feel leery of it.

There is nothing to prevent a member putting reprint material through OMPA. It would be welcomed. The objection is to having all reprints. I think it would be very commendable for any member to put his genzine through OMPA. I would if I had one. But the member should also get in something that, to the satisfaction of the officers, can be reasonably called original. That doesn't mean that it has to be your own original material of course, just that it appears first in your zine, whoever writes it. If there is some good reason for you mailing out your genzine before an OMPA deadline I think any normal officer, or member, would not raise objections.

Comment?

2

RABBLE ROUSER 1 Will Straw. Once there was a milkman nome o' Will. The only trouble was that he drove too past over bumpy roads, and delivered therefore much churned milk to the irate customers. So they put him in the cheese making dept...oh, yes...Where theres a Will, there's a whey.....(yah to you too). Glad you did the intro. nice to know something about people one write/comments/sends zines to.

The Sercon-Fannish split does seem to be pretty basic, it goes back as far as I've read about and hots up now and then. The type of fan I like to know is the one that the sercons accuse of being too fannish, and the faans acuse of being too sercon.

The Principal Kpr of Prnt Books does indeed occasionall scream if a zine is missing; and yes, he gets copies by law. I beleve that certain other libraries, maybe Ox and Cam are also entitled to copies, if they ask. er..oh yes..well, the PKFB has been a hon mem as far back as I can recall...its a sort of..er..joke..er, you know..er..a jest..er... oh well.

ROSF 1 Norm Metcalf. sorry about incorrest listing. enjoyed your reviews very much, i...

O.U.R.4 Sam Long...following his debut at the '74 Con number 1 son "Ollie" will reappear at the Chessmancon...if we can possibly afford it. Probably accompanied (abbetted?) by no.2 son, David "Piglet" Cheslin. The aforesaid Piglet cleverly arranged to be born on my birthday, anniversary of Trafalgar, Oct 21st. He is, of course, a ~~king~~ right noble child, verry advanced etc., etc.,

I have much sympathy with Bobbie Grays feelings re convicts. I don't much like the idea of habitual-unreclaimable criminals having too easy a time in prison. Admitted they are penned up, but there are a lot of people who would be glad to live in such, comparitavly, good conditions. As to a feasible way of making some economic benefit out of their labours..well, its very difficult. Obviously they must be engaged on some work that does not lend itself to making implements of escape, and possibly located in some place from which escape is difficult. Mayb Maybe they should be set some work involving simple tools such as spades etc., say filling in the Wash...or irrigating and foresting some desert region like the Australian Desert..or the Sahara...digging a new canal via Israel, clearing jungles in South America.

Perhaps it might be better to try to prevent people turning to a career of crime in the first place. Like better planning of communities so that kids get more chance to adventure without being destructive, perhaps by stricter population laws; ie; ~~p~~ permits to have children, more control over cfuel etc parents, (smaller classes in schools!) more emphasis on training for jobs for more children, for, lets face it, there are not too many academic career openings available to the majority of children-people. I like the idea of governmental make-works, but where is the money coming from?, like cleaning up the miles of foul rivers and canals, landscaping whatever ground available in cities..and I've seen a lot of land that only needs a gang of diggers to work on it to make it into a pleasant plot rather than a derelict eyesore. Even if it were to be built on in a few years time it would still be worth it from a simple morale boosting view. Greenery instead of desolation.

Personally I'm in favour of harsher penalties for several crimes, from death for murder when proved deliberate or in the course of commit..



OUR contnd....committing a crime, to severer punishments for assault, especially unpon children, to really effective fines for pollution offences. etc.,

N Ireland is complicated by religious hatreds, a large unemployment problem and dirty politics. (I assume that politics sometimes are other than dirty). From what newspapers and TV I've seen there seems to be a large younger element who cause riot merely for the hell of it. Maybe this is another aspect of youth in revolt...but it it expresses itself in violence to person and property it needs stopping. Maybe if British troops used steel bullets and say flamethrowers on illegal, jeering, stone and pdtrol bomb throwing crowds this might discourage them. The IRA seem to me to be a terforist organisation trying to force its own political aims on a largely uninterested or opposed majority. I can see little justification for the murder of unarmed men, not to mention innocent, not at all involved bystanders, women and children, by bullet or ~~knit~~ bomb, I ohly wish more of these bomb makers could blow themselves up while engaged in the manufacture of these cowardly weapons. Its a pity too that the Eire government do not take stronger action against terrorists operating from their territory.

BINARY 1011 Joe Patrizio. This business of mailing comments comes round every so often..I suppose its a case of trying to achieve some balance. Ideally perhaps they should occupy about the same sort of place as LOSs in a decent genzine...er..ambiguous that... say a quarter to a third of an issue, but of course the readership of an apa tends to be more regular than that of most genzines, so continuing conversations are possible, and in many cases desirable. As a stimulus to the other members I think Mcs are hecessary; otherwise it seems that your remarks, (stories, articles etc.,) are disapearing into a vacuum. Ho hum. nothing new in my remarks I suppose. At present there doesn't seem to be any great Subject of Discussion in OMPA, but one could pop up at any..minute (so to speak). If pne does not make an effort to do Mcs at least some of the time its hard to get the cycle of response going. So we must do our best to write Mcs as interestingly as possible.

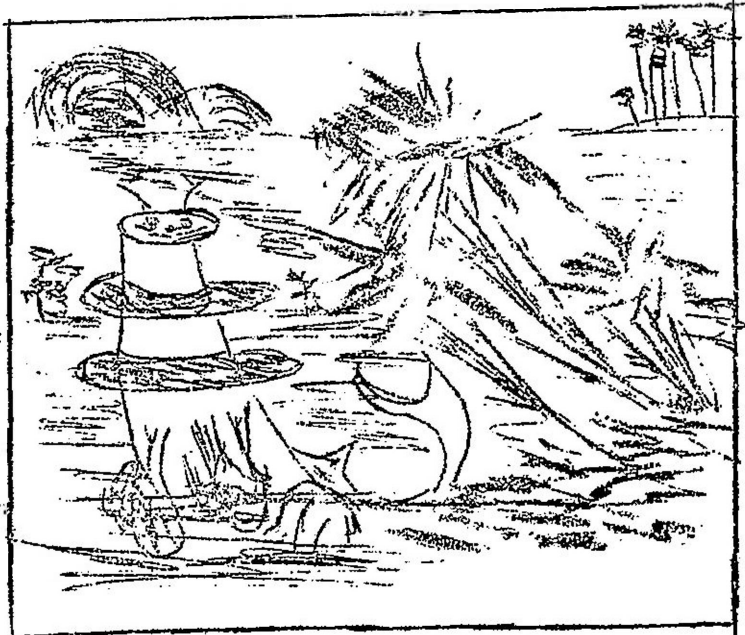
Equiv quarto..as you will appreciate this is not always easy to work out so that it is fair to the member producing the zine, and to the members getting it. There are, for instance, variations in type size, and thus in the number of words per page; there is also the problem of illos. What do you do about, say, a backcover consisting of an illo (say a good illo) which takes up roughly a third of the page space?. During my term (which shows no sign of ending yet, he says noncommittally) I've tried to be fair and balance, say, a short page off against a long one, or an illo similarly. I generally accept that a ~~Ad~~ = $1\frac{1}{4}$ British quarto, and a foolscap as $1\frac{1}{3}$ (one and a third) quarto. If necessary I will put this as a ruling into an Offtrails.

War games.....

4

BINARY....War games.... I find
exhausting. I put this
down to the stress of trying to
outwit the opponent...

Essentially I see "war" games
as an exercise on a mental level.
It may be true that this is some
sort of sublimation of my
aggressive desires, if so perhaps it
is better for Jean to lose my
company for an evening that to be
subject to these, er, continual
beatings. War games are, in my
opinion, games first and war second,
that is to say the interest is in
trying to outwit the "enemy", (as
in chess, the king of games..which
could easily be described as a



war game) in my opinion any game in which one plays against another person
with the intention of winning; draughts, cards, monopoly etc., has the
element of conflict. In war games the conflict is merely organised in a
different way. There are various types of war games. Some are games set
in imaginary locations with imaginary forces. These are almost purely
games in which one tries to outwit ((note my constant use of the word
"outwit", this is essentially what the game boils down to..a battle of wits
in which the pieces are soldiers by mere chance of the type of game) the
"enemy". Other war games are games set in specific times and locations
and using specific forces. Games of this type are the refighting of the
battle of Waterloo, Anzio, the Bulge, Normandy, the Desert etc., in these
games in addition to pitting wits with the other player there is an
additional element; can one achieve a different result to that which
actually took place?. This looms large in this type of game, perhaps
its a feeling of competing with the actual commanders of the time.

In war games; except perhaps in those played by pukka army staff
colleges; the situation does not bear a great relation to the actual
conduct of a specific, (the specific) campaign. This, in my opinion,
is due to the fact that it is prohibitively complicated to reproduce the
atmosphere and conditions of the actual campaign. For instance, it is
hard to allow for the accidents of war;; eg; a secure position on the
board was actually lost through confusion of orders in the real thing;
or someone actually disobeyed orders; or the attackers(defenders) in
the real war did an illogical thing, and wan, where in the board game
the same move would be suicide. In real war mad attacks, which would
be fatal in a board game, succeeded, and well prepared moves failed. I
recall that in the American Civil war Union troops assaulted a mountain
strongly held by Confederates, in the teeth of withering fire, yet
gained the day. In a board game logic has more rule; but by this very
fact becomes unreal. I doubt that any sane war-gamer regards his
counters as real troops, there is a saying to the effect that lead
soldiers have no wives and children to weep for them, and I believe
that this expresses the recognition by war-gamers that they are indeed
only playing a game.

OMPA and improving it.(Gray Boak) while I was more than interested
to read your comments; and pleased because at least you noticed that

Gray Boak contd....noticed that some of us are concerned to effect some improvement in OMPA, I should have been even more interested if you could have expanded your remarks about these younger fans wanting to start a new APA. hmmm..what I'm trying to say is, what is it that they, and presumably you too, feel that OMPA lacks, what can we do to make OMPA a thriving concern, is it that the members should take more trouble to turn out better looking zines, with better material, better mailing comments, better setting out?. What should we do, how can we encourage members to do whatever will improve the APA?.

Egoboo poll.....was disappointing. Needs more participation and a better format questionnaire.

Re China, it is interesting that the longest continuing culture in the world has recently achieved a position of...respect?, power? not because of any technical tradition of brilliance, but because it has adopted-adapted the results, technology, of a long non-continuous culture. The Chinese may be able to trace back 4,000 years of a culture...but the West, orienting on its most obvious trait, can trace back to the Sumerians..and perhaps beyond.

Fafiation...Gerbish. I sympathise. Lets hope that this doesn't permanently affect your fanac.

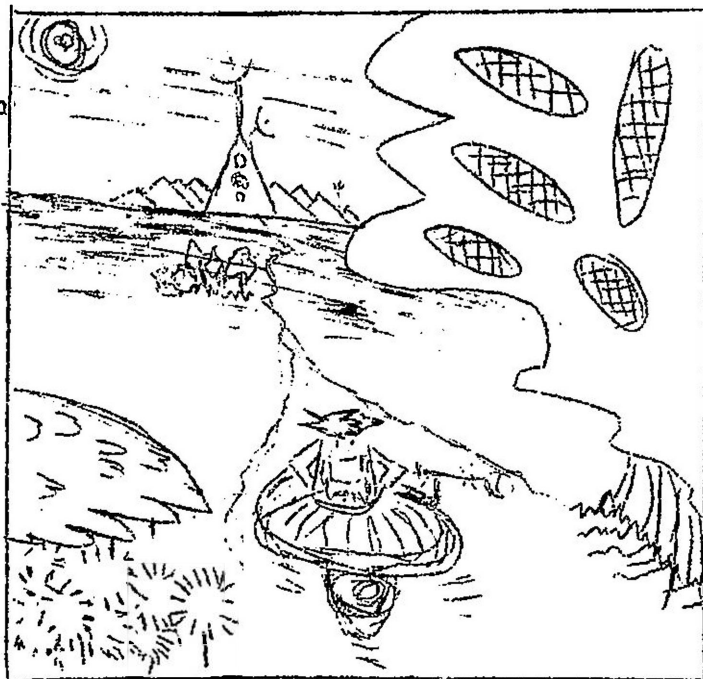
3 times a night....Whatever 4.....OOT7.....The Wall part 4....

Back in the early 60's a fan who did as much travelling round as you have would be called a Traveling Giant (or Jiant), I wonder if fans have become more used to the idea, or perhaps more fans get around more. Quite an interesting account of your doings, which is unusual as a lot of fan-visiting accounts are the opposite. Perhaps its the variety of your doings, and their relation to SF that interests me.

Enjoyed your writings about your time at the con, but only very trivial remarks occur to me. I enjoyed the collateing session in the Pardoes room, it was nice to do something with a group of fans, I get more than a bit starved for famish company the rest of the year. Birmingham isn't too far away, but I never have liked going into Brum. I went there a meeting before the Novacon, (Blish was speaking) and had a disgruntling time getting there. It was raining very heavily, and there was a traffic pile up at The Hall of Memory. Still, I joined the BSEF and might go up again some time.

Gerry Taylors minicon account was ok as such things go but does not inspire any comment.

Apathy in OMPA is far from dead, (re 7 mems contrib to the combozine), which is a damn pity after the "purge" we had last year.



Gerbishzinoscontd.,, MUST get a combozine orgaised earlier this time...

in fact I'd better put something in Offtrails about it this time or there will be nothing done. The material will have to be in before the next mailing goes out..hmmm.

Ah, no, there will never be another Goon Bleary; I was always a great admirer of John Berry; so the imitations I've done are, of course, a form of recognition-flattery. I don't think I've ever parted with my few RETRIBUTIONS, and don't intend to either.

Hal Clement (and other authors I've heard of) produced a map of his Gravity world. If a series of stories are intended to be set in some location, some same location, (re John Carter) then to my mind it is essential to have some sort of a map, otherwise amomolies will creep in, like a long sea voyage over a previously stated desert region...etc.,etc. Not many people have commented on the fictical world, and none have had a go at writing stories set there. Oh well.

THE POSTAL MENACE..when I fead through this the first time, when it came,

I wasn't much impressed. But on reading it through again now it seems to have clicked into a more flowing, readable story, which was quite amusing and which I enjoyed a great deal. Now all I worry about is how on earth the next bloke is going to sort it out...er...who is doing it? there was nothing in this mailing, which is a great pity as I'd have liked to see it in every mailing.

WHO IS DOING THE NEXT EPISODE OF THE

POSTAL MENACE!!!!!!

PhilGas & Scythrop....John Bangsund..At school..where I work..we have a portable Romeo..which I hate, its hand cranked and drum inked and has a counter ...it even has Things to shuffle the paper over from left to right. But; there is this thingy inside which sticks every so often, causing the paper to be sucked under and round the roller

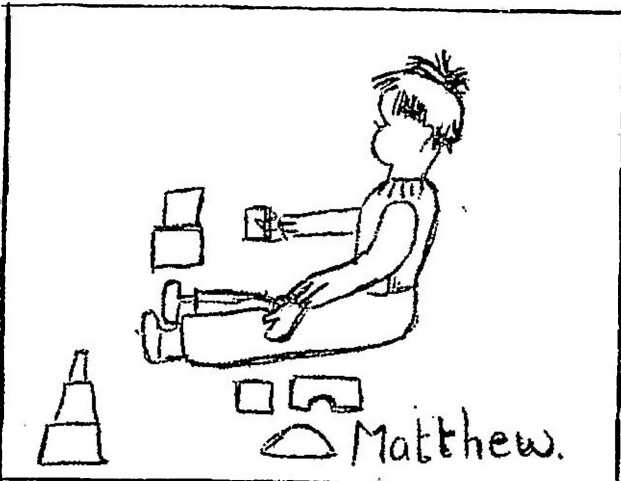
s, and, very annoying, it has no provision that I can find for raising or lowering the print on a page. This has caused me much grief, especially when I've had to cannibalise headings...I've had to hold stencils to gether by staple and sellotape, and a quarter inch fold one way or another is sufficient to put the print off the top or bottom of the paper. We also have a banda, which I haven't done much on. I'm a bit wary of this type of dupe.

Yes it is infuriating when people panic, it only makes things harder to set right. Extraordinary hours you work!, facinating reading..hmm maybe its a love of gossip that makes me say that...

It costs a lot of money to produce and run a fanzine..paper and postage have risen way up since I last published a regular zine; it used to cost me 10/- a ream for paper, now it costs £1..and the postage! awful.

Quite enjoyed the whole zine.





HELL 2 the cover was nicely drawn but it didn't seem to me really suitable for a cover the joke-subject would have been better, half size, inside, and the cover- as well drawn- some lofty subject or other...er...er...er...I think on looking closer that it is the caption that I dislike most... maybe sans caption, and with a beanie'd fan sitting with 't Owl and 't Pussy Cat also, nonchalantly noshing.

LIMBO, ok, well, actually quite interesting, but not very commenta

ble....pop down the M5/6 some time and see the Wonders of Worcester-shire...the Mighty Malverns, the Awesome Severn, the er...the..oh well. GOH Joan the Wad, most amusing... but actually it would not be all that hard to have a sort of Cornwall con.. a camping con, as Archie has suggested, would do fine. The only trouble is that of persuading fans, or at least a dozen, to take their holidays at the same time.. this is not so easy for some people..and anyway those who can afford it; for some strange reason; seem to want to go to furrin parts. But if you two, or Archie, seriously get the idea going I'd be interested, in any case, money holding out, we will be off to Cornwall in the summer, camping. Go on, organise a camp-con. and, er, don't forget to invite Lisa.....

Terry, what were the other two names suggested for Triode?...I bought my Cringebinder duper uder similar circumstances to those you relate...On this is all good stuff. Its a pity that fans are so scattered over the country (no jokes u2), I suppose a lot of jobs tie people to areas. Hmmm..I fancy moving to Cornwall, but its not easy to get a job there..besides, who would I play war-games with then?. When my premium bonds come up I'll move to Cornwall and set up a job/home agency devoted to moving fans to one town..say Mousehole, (its such a fannish name..well, its got something).

While very interesting there is nothing startlingly new about the Roy Sharpe article. Perhaps he might find some newer ground to cover.

I though the Sheila Thari article on Tongs very good..oh well can't agree on everything, (say, do they sell Charringtons, or Tetle Tetleys or John Smiths beer in your area? ~~Ex~~ if you drink it regularly it rots body and mind..yecchh..thats ..er enough)

Agree with Skel-theology. Tell me, have I ever expounded to you my theory of predestination? Also, do you believe this rubbish a about there being free will?.

TAFF hasn't had the publicity it needs lately, not enough people know about it, or care. No-or-little time has been given for it at conventions..and I've seen no reports, or mention of reports for the last 5 or 6 TAFF trips.(my memory might deceive me). I also think it a mistake to include countries in Europe other than the British Isles, but perhaps that was inevitable due to apathy here, enthusiasm in Germany, and a wish by US people to see other than UK fans. I'd like to see a lot more interest in the USA by UK fans, a lot more contact,

PART 2 contd...the younger fans especially seem to be full of a BLIND
 prejudice against things American. Yah, Up the US, to
 Hell(?) with the Reds. On fandom being out-throat..well it wasn't so
 back in '59 when I found it...my prejudices tell me that its the new
 generation of selfish-thoughtless-dirtymouthed-scrourging "fans" that
 are cut-throat.(there,that should set the cat among the pigeons)xk
 ..I particularly regard selfishness as regards person or own "clan" to
 develope that further I'd claim a stubbornness in clinging to prejudices
 is typical of some people(young & old) but recently more noticable in
 deluded young people, who want to go somewhere but have no real idea
 of where to go, or what is worthwhile. A pity, a lot of enery is wasted
 by young people sincerely wanting to better the world, but they are led
 off, by prjudice or loud talkers, or hasty judgement, and combinations
 of these and other factors, into destructive blind alleys...hmmm..now
 this is no way to go on. I'm spouting out thoughts without giving them
 much shape. Anyway, some of the attitude of rebellion just for the
 sake of rebellion (when its all boiled down) has come over into Fandom.

Re, your remarks about demos against S African tours, Australia etc.,
 your last remark..."You can't logically have both!" demonstrates a
 misunderstanding of the world. Only when you accept the fact that
 people rarely act logically will you see the world in ..cr..a clearer
 light. (life is absurd and illogicalKench)



Between now and the Chessmancon we need to get
 more organised. You two volunteer to help?. (agree
 wholeheartedly with your comment in this mailing
 that all or most work MUST be done by OMPA members)
 Must write round after this mailing goes out.

Problems of running a convention...well there
 are some. One is to find a suitable hotel, the
 other is working out a programme. As for the hotel
 one must try to get a hotel that can take all or
 most of the expected attendees(fix up overflow
 hotels), has a hall big enough to take the con,
 and is convenient to get to. (also things like

seeing what the manager and staff are like..attitudes to room parties,
 availability of booze etc.,etc., things like power points and black-out
 for films, lock-up rooms for the hucksters. Anyhow,the way I see it the
 first thing to do was to think of a location for a con which would be
 con(ha ha)venient for most members. Birmingham,on main rail routes and
 with good road access suggested itself right away, though Brighton was
 mooted. Brighton, in my opinion, and t'was mentioned by some northern
 fans, was too far south. Anyway,I thought, we can but look round Brum.
 Now a hotel which is a long way from the centre suffers from at least
 two disadvantages, 1,difficulty getting there for train-travelling fans,
 2, lack of local-near eating places. The second is particularly import-
 ant as hotel food usually costs more than cafe-chinese-etc., Then, the
 hotel must have a car park, or be near to some facility. In Brum this
 is not easy to find.At the last Brumcon cars were parked miles away.
 ((Midland can take most attendees,plenty of eating places within a few
 minutes walk,station right at rear of hotel,multi-storey carpark built
 as part of the railway station.))I'd also thought of The Albany and
 other Brum hotels, but most lack halls,some are too expensive in any case
 and NONE as convenient to station and car park. Having sized this up,
 not all at once, the next consideration was the attitude of the manager

HEIL Z wented again... manager and staff. Rog Peyton mentioned that he was displeased at the last con at the Midland by the fact that the bars closed early, ran out of essential booze, etc., with this in mind I went to see the manager. To get things straight from the start I explained that there would be people drinking to all hours, etc., and that people from the other hotel would want free access to the Midland. He said that the bar would stay open as long as anyone wanted a drink, etc., I also told him that most people would eat out, and he accepted this too. On the whole he gave the impression that we could expect full cooperation. We'll go up to the hotel again if we get the con and check these things of course, and at the actual con I, and others I hope, will be at the hotel early, to sort last minute things out. Also, we must make it clear that if attendees have any complaints they must see a committee member and we'll take it up at once with the manager.

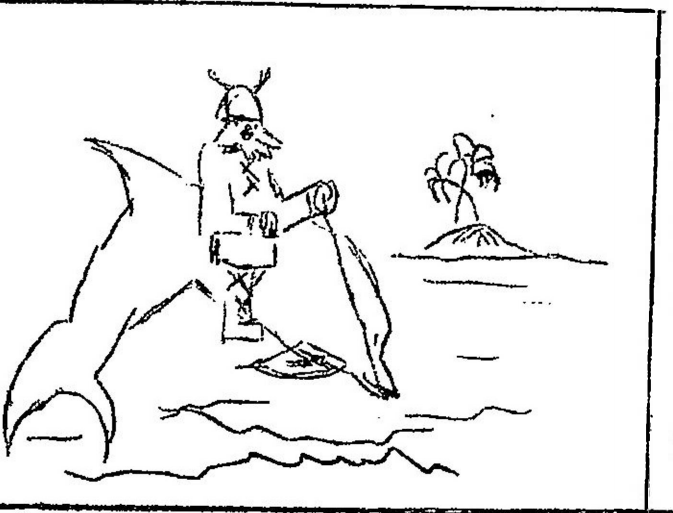
Programme. Much of the programme is dictated by tradition or convenience. For instance there will, as far as the foreseeable future, certain regular items on the programme, (many fitting neatly into certain time slots) the BSFA AGM will be an item on most ~~xxx~~ or all programmes for a long time to come. And the Sunday morning timing of this has always been considered the most suitable time by committees; well, all those interested in it will get up, while the others can ~~sleep/~~ have a nice lie in knowing that they are not missing any important programme item. Of course, we could change the BSFA time.... Sat morning? Mon Morning?

Then, there is the G&H, it now becoming traditional to fit this in on Sunday evening as a banquet, the Fancy Dress, the St. Fantasy, then there need to be a number of films, a number of lectures, a number of discussions. Any more suggestions.... a Battle Royal? Getting some sort of a programme worked out is fairly simple... the gathering of material and people is a bit harder.

By this Easter we hope to have 80% of the work done. At the '73 con itself we will need people to man the registration desk, call in the attendees, look for people who should be on panels, hand out booze at the Hum & Sway..etc., These tasks are very necessary, and must be done by OMPA members if at all possible. So the solution to the problem of ottee members being a long way apart is to get everything done in good time.

.....Arts Council grants... so most people don't give a damn about "Art" in any shape or form. That Coronation Street has umpty ump million viewers does not make it art. Art appeals to a minority, Art does not appeal to a majority. Therefore the democratic thing to do is to do away with Art. (!?) Democracy is a balance of wanting things, not

of needing things. Does the want of 50,000,000 make a thing into a need?. The same people who are all in favour of giving Art to the "masses" (which they don't want... or education to the "masses", which they don't want...) would be rather against the idea that opinions etc should be forced on people. "But when they understand-have been educated to it they'll thank us" is such a lovely attitude, shared by saints and fiends. There baint no logical answer, as usualhoh hch, heh, heh....



More HELL 2...Dirac Angestun Gessept
sounds like the
Terran fake-revolutionary
organisation in WASP.
well thats about it....

PHVT 4 John Coombe (and Jane
Quintrell.).

Don't pack in reading historical novels Jane...I hope JC is making sure that the SF you read is good stuff, there's a lot of rubbish about. Name some names re the historical novels...Duggan, Graves, Renault, Oldergerg, Suttcliffe, Plaidy, Seaton...?

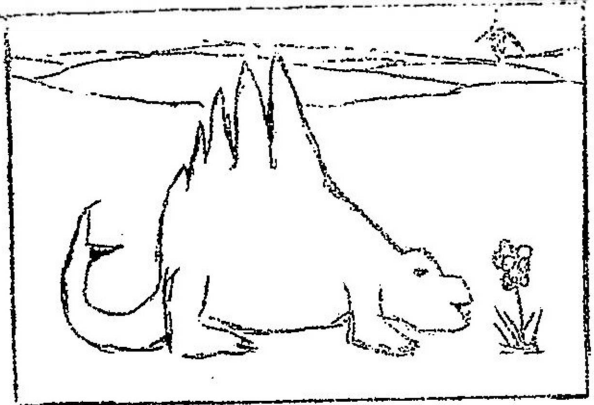
Howlers, always enjoy this sort of thing..must be my childish sense of humour. Binary does some..Scribble used to... when I was in the RAF I recall times after night flying when a bloke would squat on the front bumper of the land rover with a loaded catapult while the rover was driven madly round, lights blazing, chasing hares and partridges....

Philip Michells article (a poor heading) was too sketchy to be much good; I grant him the assumption that with more space he would have made more sense. Anyway, he is trying to deal with book sized questions.... Suddsy menace, well, ok.

I'm against self rule for Cornwall, Wales or Scotland, and would also like to see all Ireland united, PEACEABLY, with the UK. Simply put I believe "united we stand, divided we fall". A measure of local autonomy, yes. Decentralisation, yes. I'd limit cities to a population of a million, possibly less, ((applies to UK, don't know how it would work other places)) the way I would do it would be to plan the site of cities taking into consideration only very important geographical reasons. Then I would build a city, part underground, with all the necessary access points, vehicles and pedestrians separated, and on about 20 "floors". Compact. Around the city, green belt. Roads, rail etc., constructed on a long term plan feeding all city sites. Then I'd put into the city. ((occupations trades, etc., all planned before)) a balanced population from some big city, preferably London. After about a dozen cities had been built I'd transfer the capital, perhaps to Southampton, raze London to the ground..preserving historic buildings by one means or another, and build a new London, and move the capital back there(perhaps) If Ireland was with us perhaps a better site for the capital might be Liverpool. Eventually straggling, ugly cities would give way to new cities on this plan, towns logically but esthetically planned, villages on the same lines. I'd recruit an army of Capability Browns to make the country as a whole a pleasing place to live in. (Kenck for diotator!)

PABLO 15...at least 1/3 of the members listed are still more or less active fans..hmm...I wonder if it would be any use sending out a circular to these ex-members..say the OMPA combozine?.

BELTANE 1 Rosemary...Golden Bough, is good. Activity etc., will write about that in OT. Hmm, no comment comes to mind, probably its because I'm getting anxious about time, I have little left to finish this (apologies) all MC issue of WHATSIT as the deadline is here. anyway twas a pleasant zine.



ERG 5. nice cover though it feels heavy somehow, mayhap it is all the dark areas. This zine seems to have by far the best artwork of the mailing, and in quantity too. Checkpoint, are you picking up the con info from OT for this? it would be as complete as any letter I could send you, and its only circulated to CMPA members so it would be news to Checkpointers. John Brosan..comes the revolution I'll initiate a reforestation scheme, oaks, beeches, walnut, etc., etc., instead of the (or as well as?) eternal conifers. I think you did the right thing in giving The Opposition a place to speak; disagree with the contents of the article though.

The Rathbone article, good to see. interesting but nothing I can see to comment on. sorry, liked it. More of this sort of thing would not be amiss.

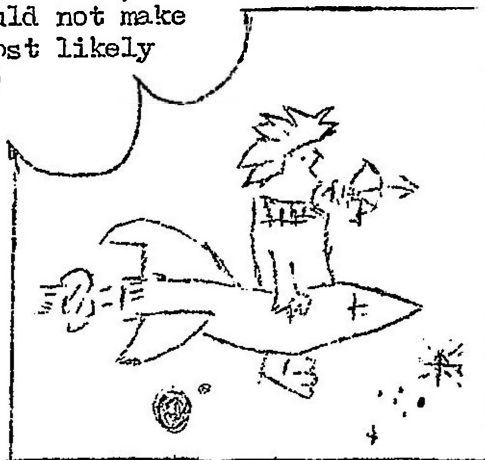
Gray Boak, Africa being the logical place to look for first signs of civilisation. Up to a point I tend to agree. But, if man did start there, or get a first foothold there it does not follow that he started civilisations there. Reason, civilisation means progress from a hunter society to agriculture, to larger organisations and more technology. If the living conditions in Africa were not in a proper balance...; ie., not too easy, not too hard, stimulus but not hard enough to force a constant struggle to merely survive, land suitable to primitive agricultural methods..then it would not make progress. Still think the river valleys the most likely places. (Nile, Euphrates, Hanges, (er west India) Yellow river.) Indoneasia perhaps a good bet, river valleys, wild rice to gather, then to cultivate.

Brosan..ok...

wise words from Joe Patrizio...

When I was doing my square bashing the two radio programmes for which all work stopped were Journey into Space and The Goon Show. (hope I'm remembering right about the latter)..though I guess I was the only real SF reader in the flight. I used to like Dan Dare for the superb illos..it must have been one of the very first glossy UK comics...

...Harsh Black Pits of Luna is really, I believe, THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH. The "Martians" sang it in JiSpace. Was a good programme, better than a lot which followed...or is that just nostalgia speaking?. Sam Long, politicization..agree.



ERG 36 Jeeves. heh heh, yr comments re UFO, Who, etc., on the whole agree, UFO nice backgrounds, ST poor stories.

As an admirer, (tho not always agreeing) of Campbell, and recognising his influence on SF, agree very much that an award named for him would be a good thing. Question though, is there room for another award? "greatest contrib to SF in the year might be a bit difficult to define closely enough to vote on. Maybe it could be an award for the best allround continuing prozine, going to the editor?.

para 1 of Alan Burns..agree. with first half. Agree also that it is difficult to write good scientific SF as science has such a wide range, and it may be hard to learn enough about what is going on and also work it into a story so that it is interesting. But SF dead? No.

ERG 36 contd...also with para 3. his remarks on OMPA might do some good, but there wouldn't be very many members left. (would there?).

will try to reply to comments on activity requirements etc., in OT..

the best criticism of the Threads in my opinion was that if they occupied all of the other planet, and had done so for centuries, and fed on vegetable matter (I hope I'm remembering correctly) how come they survived?.

looking at my entry in Whos Who I notice that I left out several glorious items.....inc publishing Whatsit!?! (and St.F.)

Ah, against all these superb adverst all the UK prozincs seem to have had to offer was..Joad the Wad...

comments at the end of Roj Gilbert letter...agree. enjoyable zine.(I'm not doing too well on these last couple of comments-stencils..no.1 son Matthew is "helping"and its not really conducive to coherent thought).

I have taken to heart your remarks re the large areas of unrelieved typing and drawn in some fillers,Terry. Though not very artistic I hopeb it helps to make the zine look a bitnbetter.

dynamic apathy.....unlike ordinary apathy which merely consists of doing or thinking nothing Dynamic Apathy is a positive philosophy. (directly related to Positive Inactivity) In Dynamic Apathy you see one first has to select some world shattering subject, some talking point of Great Significance, some Burning Issue, and concentrate upon being apathetic about it. This is harder than it seems.....kench.

This has been WHATSIT 22 an OMPAazine intended for the

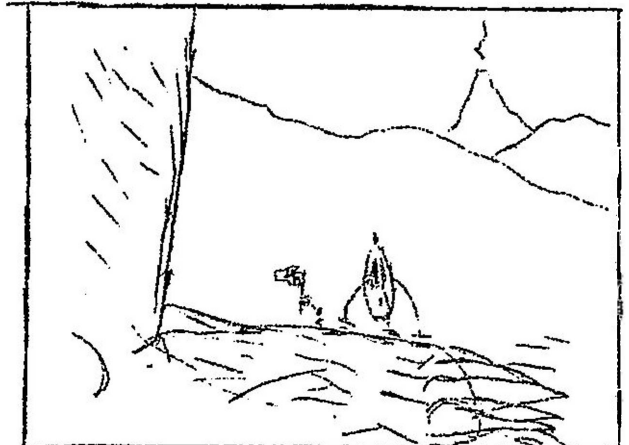
64th Mailing of the Offtrail Magazine Publishers Association, dated

January 1972

from. Ken Cheslin,
36 Chapel Street,
Wordsley,
Stourbridge,
DY8 5QP
Worcestershire,
England.

OMPA con in '73.

13



11

6

4

7